THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 01, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

CORE SECTOR GROWTH SLOWS TO 14-MONTH LOW IN DEC 2023

Growth of eight key infrastructure industries slipped to 3.8% due to poor performance of crude, steel and cement

LAST REPORTED LOW WAS IN OCT 2022

For December 2022, the growth of the eight core sectors was 7.6%. The last time the growth was so bad was in October 2022, at 0.9%. The eight core sectors are cement, coal, crude oil, electricity, fertilizers, natural gas, refinery products, and steel. The cumulative growth of the key sectors during April-December 2023 was flat at 8.1% versus 8% a year ago

1-3%

ICRA PROJECTION ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION EXPANSION IN DEC

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianxpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee
Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat
Scan for more information
World-class airport network in India
Number of airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 149 now

Be secular, Siddu tells bureaucrats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday directed senior IAS officials to be secular and committed to the principles of the Constitution. Bureaucrats who have no respect for secular and constitutional principles will not be allowed to work in the state, he said.

In his first-ever meeting with district in-charge secretaries here, Siddaramaiah said the officials' experience should help district administrations in reaching government's welfare and development schemes to the people. In some districts, benefits of the guarantee schemes are not reaching beneficiaries because of some technical issues. The officials should help resolve such issues, he added.

The district in-charge secretaries and DCs should work with dedication. "If any issue is not resolved at your level, take it to the chief secretary. You have to take action against officials at the district-level who violate rules. Otherwise, you cannot ensure discipline in work," the CM told them.

The CM sought to know from them whether people's grievances are being addressed without any delay. He asked them if they have visited government schools, colleges, hostels and police stations. P4

Soren held, new Soren to be CM

Veteran JMM leader and minister Champai Soren set to become new Jharkhand CM

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

Hemant Soren gestures as he leaves for Raj Bhavan; Champai Soren | PTI

High Court to hear Soren's plea against ED today

Hemant Soren has moved the Jharkhand HC challenging ED summons, alleging that the agency is misusing its powers. Citing an SC order, the plea also says ED cannot arrest anyone on the basis of 'not cooperating in the investigation'. The case will be heard at 10:30 am on Thursday

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM leader Hemant Soren in connection with a money laundering case, after questioning him for over seven hours at his Ranchi residence. Before the arrest, Soren tendered his resignation to Governor C P Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan, from where he was taken to the ED office for further questioning. He is likely to be produced in court on Thursday.

ED sources said Soren was arrested as he was not cooperating with the investigation and was evasive in his replies.

After Soren's resignation, veteran JMM leader and Jharkhand transport minister Champai Soren met the governor and staked claim to form the new government in the state. He also handed over the letters of support signed by 47 MLAs to the governor. Sources said the MLAs who had accompanied Champai were not allowed inside Raj Bhawan.

With Champai set to become the next CM, this would be for the first time that power will shift out of the Shibu Soren family. Till evening, the expectation among party circles was that Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana would be picked as the next CM. Party sources said rebellion by some JMM members including MLA Sita Soren, the elder daughter-in-law of JMM patriarch Shibu Soren, forced the party to choose another name. Another reason cited is the possible legal complications as the state is headed for Assembly polls in just about one year and by-elections can't be conducted if an assembly seat falls vacant in that period. Therefore, Kalpana Soren may not be able to contest from the Gandey Assembly seat, which fell vacant on December 31, due to legal hurdles.

Champai Soren is a senior JMM leader, popularly known as Jharkhand Tiger. He is also the party vice-president. Champai Soren has been an associate of Shibu Soren and has also took part in the Jharkhand movement. Champai enjoys a high stature in the party and Hemant Soren has been seen touching his feet and taking blessings on public platforms.

Born on 15 September 1978, Champai Soren spent his childhood in Dumka and completed his schooling from a government school. He started his political career after being elected as an Independent MLA in the by-election from Seraikela Assembly seat. Champai was also a Cabinet minister in the Arjun Munda-led BJP-JMM-AJSU government from September 2010 to January 2013.

Court allows worship of deities in southern cellar of the Gyanvapi

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

The Gyanvapi Mosque complex as seen from the Kashi Vishwanath Temple | PTI

THE Gyanvapi case took a dramatic turn on Wednesday with a Varanasi court allowing worship of deities inside the southern cellar of the mosque by priests named by the Shree Kashi Vishwanath temple trust (SKVTT) board.

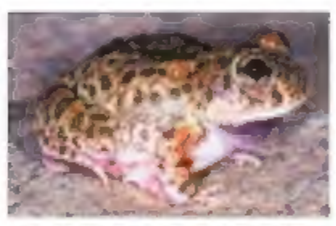
District Judge Ajay Krishna Vishvesha passed the order while disposing a plea by Shailendra Kumar Pathak Vyas, the head priest of the Acharya Ved Vyas Peeth temple, seeking the right to worship Goddess Shringar Gauri and other visible and invisible deities in the cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque. The judge directed the administration to make arrangements to start the puja within seven days.

The court will hear the matter again on February 8.

On January 17, the Varanasi District Magistrate was appointed receiver of the cellar by the district court. He took possession on January 23.

Supreme Court lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, who represented Vyas in the case, said: "The court has ordered district magistrate/receiver to ensure regular worship of idols inside the southern cellar of the property in dispute by plaintiff and priest assigned by SKVTT board."

Akhlaque Ahmed, the lawyer for the mosque committee, said they will challenge the order in the high court.



NEW FROG SPECIES

Sphaerotheca varshaabhu, a new frog species, discovered at Budumanahalli near Rajankute in Bengaluru | P2

EXPRESS READ

Pragathi app to track scheme implementation

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched Pragathi, a mobile app to track development and implementation of government schemes in various department at every taluk. The app will help schedule routine inspections for district and taluk officers of the department. P4

Brakes or stoning? Rahul's car damaged

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

The broken rear windshield of Rahul's car in Malda | PTI

THE rear windshield of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's car was shattered on Wednesday near the Bihar-Bengal border during his *Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra*. While the Congress attributed it to the application of sudden brakes, the party's Bengal chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury blamed it on stone pelting. He was in the car when the incident happened. No one was injured.

The yatra entered Bengal's Malda district on the same day CM Mamata Banerjee blamed the CPI(M) for her party's bitter relations with the Congress. The yatra reached Malda after a roadshow in Katihar, Bihar. After travelling for 38 km in the car with a broken windscreen, Rahul got down at the designated spot and inspected the car.

West Bengal police said the windscreen was smashed in Katihar. "Rahul was travelling in a bus. As part of the party's protocol, the state heads of the party exchanged party flag on the rooftop of the bus. After reaching Bengal, Rahul boarded the car as the road was narrow and the damaged rear windscreen was noticed," said a police officer. Rahul carried on with the yatra perched on top of an open-hood jeep.

The car entered West Bengal with the glass already broken. I condemn the attack

Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

Different strokes from Didi, Cong

While Mamata claimed the incident occured in Bihar, the Congress said it happened in Malda but because brakes had to be applied as a woman had come in front of the car

MURMU'S ADDRESS

In her address to Parliament, the President lauded major reforms by the govt in the past 10 years and hailed the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya | P11

PROPOSAL TO DEPLOY SARAS

Arctic ideal for RRI's cosmic dawn study

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

A scientist from Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, has found the Arctic region a worthy site for study on the cosmic dawn using an indigenous radio telescope because of its pristine location and radio remoteness.

Cosmic dawn is the period from about 100 million years to one billion years after the Big Bang when the first stars, black holes, and galaxies in the universe were formed.

Research scientist Dr BS Girish, who led India's maiden winter research team to the Arctic, told TNIE that he characterised frequency environment in which RRI-developed SARAS radio telescope operated and found the vicinity in and around Himadri, India's research station in the Arctic, a promising site for deployment. He returned to Bengaluru on January 19.

"Girish's project was to study radio interference levels in the Arctic. The radio frequency interference scenario in Ny-Ålesund (the global research station) in Svalbard, Norway, was sampled at different times of the day," said Saurabh Singh, assistant professor, Astronomy & Astrophysics, RRI. P7

Missing man found living as transgender

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SIX years after Lakshman Rao went missing from Ijoor police limits in Ramanagara district, a felicitation ceremony video of transgender Neethu Vanajakshi, who participated in a Kannada reality show, Bigg Boss Season 10, helped police solve the case.

Neethu was felicitated by the transgender community in Mysuru. The video went viral soon after the function.

One of the police personnel attached to Ijoor police station, who saw the footage, found the transgender resembling Rao, who had gone missing. He brought it to the notice of his senior officers.

Soon investigations revealed some shocking details — the missing man had transformed himself into a transgender and changed his name to Vijayalakshmi.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Rao fled home as he was in debt due to gambling. P5

SBI
The banker to every Indian
ENABLE YOUR BUSINESS WITH TECH SOLUTIONS
SBI Current Account for every business
Hassle-free cashless collections through QR code, POS, VAN (Virtual account number) & payment gateway
Customised MIS for easy reconciliation
Automated/customised payment solution for salary/vendor payment
Identify your remitters through virtual account numbers
Liquidity management solutions for sweeping funds in multiple accounts
Get your cheques printed and dispatched to beneficiaries
Fee/Subscription collection through multiple modes without having your own website
For more details scan QR code
For assistance, call 1800 1234 or visit bank.sbi
Follow us on
T&C Apply